

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - receiving a plurality of packets at a plurality of first locations in a first stacked switching device operatively coupled to a second stacked switching device, each packet identifying a corresponding destination location where each packet is to be delivered, each stacked switching device including a plurality of switching devices stacked on top of each other;
 - queuing the received plurality of packets in at least one queue;
 - receiving a message on the first stacked switching device from the second stacked switching device, the message identifying a congested second location in the second stacked switching device, the message transmitted by the second stacked switching device upon a determination that the second location is congested;
 - determining that a destination location of a first packet of the received plurality of packets is the congested second location; and
 - holding the first packet in the at least one queue.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the message comprises a frame including an identifier identifying the congested second location.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - receiving a plurality of packets on a first stacked switching device from a second stacked switching device, the plurality of packets for transmitting to a plurality of first locations in the first stacked switching device, each stacked switching device including a plurality of switching devices stacked on top of each other;

determining that a first location in a first switching device included in the first stacked switching device is congested; and

in response to the determining, transmitting a message to the second stacked switching device identifying the congested location to temporarily stop packet transmission, the message comprising a frame including a plurality of segments, a first segment of the plurality of segments identifying the congested location and a second segment of the plurality of segments identifying the first switching device;

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a computer readable medium, the computer program product when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform operations comprising:

receiving a plurality of packets at a plurality of first locations in a first stacked switching device operatively coupled to a second stacked switching device, each packet identifying a corresponding destination location where each packet is to be delivered, each stacked switching device including a plurality of switching devices

queuing the received plurality of packets in at least one queue;

receiving a message on the first stacked switching device from the second stacked switching device, the message identifying a congested second location in the second stacked switching device, the message transmitted by the second stacked switching device upon a determination that the second location is congested;

determining that a destination location of a first packet of the received plurality of packets is the congested second location; and

holding the first packet in the at least one queue.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the message comprises a frame including an identifier identifying the congested second location.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a computer readable medium, the computer program product when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform operations comprising:

receiving a plurality of packets on a first stacked switching device from a second stacked switching device, the plurality of packets for transmitting to a plurality of first locations in the first stacked switching device, each stacked switching device including a plurality of switching devices stacked on top of each other;

determining that a first location in a first switching device included in the first stacked switching device is congested; and

in response to the determining, transmitting a message to the second stacked switching device identifying the congested location to temporarily stop packet transmission, the message comprising a frame including a plurality of segments, a first segment of the plurality of segments identifying the congested location and a second segment of the plurality of segments identifying the first switching device.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 12, the operations further comprising:

transmitting the message from the second stacked switching device to a third stacked switching device.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the first switching device includes an application-specific integrated circuit.

15 - 17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first stacked switching device including a plurality of switching devices, each switching device stacked upon another switching device, each switching device including a plurality of first locations configured to transmit and receive packets; and

a second stacked switching device, operatively coupled to the first stacked switching device, the second stacked switching device including a plurality of switching devices, each switching device stacked upon another switching device, each switching device including a plurality of second locations, the second stacked switching device configured to perform operations comprising,

transmitting a plurality of packets from one or more second locations at the second stacked switching device to the first stacked switching device, each packet identifying a corresponding destination location where each packet is to be delivered,

receiving a message from the first stacked switching device to regulate packet flow, the message identifying a congested first location in the first stacked switching device, the message transmitted by the second stacked switching device upon a determination that the second location is congested,

queuing the received plurality of packets in at least one queue,
determining that a destination location of a first packet of the received plurality of packets is the congested second location, and
holding the first packet in the at least one queue.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the first stacked switching device is further configured to perform operations comprising:

receiving the plurality of packets from the second stacked switching device;

determining that a first location in a first switching device included in the first stacked switching device is congested; and

in response to the determining, transmitting a message to the second stacked switching device to temporarily stop packet transmission, the message identifying the congested location, the message comprising a frame including a plurality of segments, a first segment of the plurality of segments identifying the congested

location and a second segment of the plurality of segments identifying the first switching device.

20 – 26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein slowing packet transmission comprises stopping packet transmission from the first stacked switching device to the congested second location in the stacked second switching device.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a packet for packet transmission to a destination second location is queued at a sending first location.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising, in response to receiving the message slowing transmission of the packet from the first location, upon determining that the destination second location is the congested second location.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein slowing packet transmission comprises stopping packet transmission from the first stacked switching device to the congested second location in the second stacked switching device.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein a packet for packet transmission to a destination second location is queued at a sending first location.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the frame is a PAUSE frame.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the PAUSE frame temporarily permits stopping packet transmission.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the frame comprises a first segment identifying the second stacked switching device.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the frame comprises a second segment identifying the congested second location.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that the congested second location is no longer congested;
and
transmitting the first packet in the at least one queue to the destination location of the first packet.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the PAUSE frame temporarily permits stopping packet transmission.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the frame comprises a first segment identifying the second stacked switching device.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the frame comprises a second segment identifying the congested second location.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, the operations further comprising:
determining that the congested second location is no longer congested; and
transmitting the first packet in the at least one queue to the destination location of the first packet.